



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BALTIMORE DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District Public Affairs Office
Contact: Mary Beth Thompson,
410-962-2809
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Corps of Engineers executes Record of Decision on Washington Aqueduct Water Treatment Residuals project

Baltimore — Baltimore District Engineer Col. Robert J. Davis has designated the selected alternative and executed the Record of Decision for the Washington Aqueduct Water Treatment Residuals Management Process. Alternative E as described in the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was selected. This alternative collects the residuals in a liquid form from the sedimentation basins at the Dalecarlia and Georgetown sites and sends to a dewatering facility to be built to the north of Little Falls Road on the grounds of the Dalecarlia Reservoir. The dewatered residuals will be transported by truck for off-site agricultural reuse or disposal.

Washington Aqueduct developed the EIS in order to identify a new process for managing the water treatment residuals for the Dalecarlia and McMillan Water Treatment Plants, which provide drinking water to the District of Columbia, and to Arlington County and the Falls Church service area in Virginia.

The EIS evaluated a range of alternatives to comply with the provisions of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued in March 2003 by the Environmental Protection Agency. This permit restricts the discharge of water treatment residuals (i.e., sediment and the accompanying coagulant) to the Potomac River. These residuals are a byproduct of the drinking water treatment process.

The selected alternative meets the project's purpose and need and provides the necessary safety and reliability of operations at the water treatment plants. The selected alternative also has the fewest potential impacts on the natural as well as the human environment.

Under normal conditions there will be an average of eight truckloads of dewatered residuals per day, Monday through Friday.

This decision completes a process that began in January 2004. Throughout the process, Washington Aqueduct has sought and received public and agency comment and input.

Under the terms of a Federal Facility Compliance Agreement (FFCA) between Washington Aqueduct and EPA, Washington Aqueduct must submit notice of the engineering/best management practices it will implement in order to comply with the numeric discharge limitations set forth in the NPDES permit and a schedule for implementing the practices by November 2, 2005.

Following EPA's notification that the selected alternative will meet the conditions of the FFCA and the NPDES permit, Washington Aqueduct will begin design of the required facilities.

To request a copy of the Record of Decision, contact the Public Affairs Office at 410-962-2809 or send a message via email to Mary.B.Thompson@usace.army.mil.